Royal Canadian Mounted Police | Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Canada

Command Intent - K Division RCMP Response to Protests

K Criminal Operations Communique: 20-018

Background
Coastal Gaslink (CGL) LNG pipeline has received approval to begin construction of a 620km natural gas pipeline from Dawson Creek to Kitimat and is poised to begin construction. This construction activity will impact several Detachment areas in British Columbia and cross Wet'suwet'en territory.

Even though support for this pipeline has come from the several First Nation communities, there are a number of groups opposed to this project, including environmentalists and other First Nation groups. There has been significant protest activity at the Morice West FSR near Houston, BC, attended to by the RCMP there, and a number of solidarity protests across Canada, including several in Alberta.

Overall Aim
The RCMP are the Provincial Police of Alberta, and working in partnership with other law enforcement agencies, have a core policing responsibility to:

- Preserve the peace, uphold and enforce the law
- Protect life, property and prevent crime

This is in keeping with the RCMP's proportionate policing response and which reflect its Mission, Vision and Values. This is a common-law and statutory policing responsibility.

Strategic Objectives
Protect life and reduce potential for injuries to participants and others engaged in protest related activities, the general public, law enforcement officers and other first responders;
Minimize opportunities for persons to commit criminal acts against persons and property

Prevent crime and investigate criminal activity which impedes the ability of any person to securely and safely go about their lawful business

Collaboratively work together with other law enforcement agencies, K Division Indigenous Policing Services, Consultative Conflict Management Group (CCMG) Critical Incident Program, Divisional Intelligence, Strategic Communications, KMOSS and any other government agencies to ensure a coordinated response to keep the peace and manage criminal threats to the public and affected employees.

Maintain order and ensure the public ability to express their views through lawful and peaceful assembly, while providing an environment which facilitates lawful and peaceful protest.

Restore order and public peace as expeditiously as possible, with restraint, if a situation deteriorates to unacceptable levels.

Policing Style
The RCMP will provide an impartial, respectful and fair policing style which focuses primarily on

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communication and collaboration in a manner that reflects our commitment to our communities. This is to be accomplished through;

Unbiased and respectful treatment of all persons
Mutual problem solving
Cultural sensitivity
Enhancement of public safety
Open and honest communication

Achieving this through the following:

A friendly and fair approach
'No Surprises' approach
Firm but fair
Proportionate Police Response

Tactical parameters
Mode of Dress: Service order #1, high visibility vest/jackets, visible name tags, full use of force options, including CEW for those trained in its use

Powers and Policy
Freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression including freedom of the press and other media communication
Freedom of peaceful assembly
Freedom of association
Everyone has the right to life, liberty & security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice
Everyone has the right to be secure against unreasonable search and seizure
Everyone has the right not to be arbitrarily detained or imprisoned
Everyone has the right on arrest or detention to a) be informed of the reasons therefore b) to retain & instruct counsel without delay and c) to have validity of the detention determined by way of habeas corpus and to be released if the detention is not lawful

Criminal Code / Traffic Safety Act
Section 30-31 Breach of the Peace
Section 32-33 Riot
Section 60-69 Unlawful Assembly and Masks
Section 175 Causing a Disturbance
Section 265-269 Assault(s)
Section 270 Assault Police
Section 423(1) Intimidation
Section 423(1)(d) Obstruct Highway
Section 430(1) Mischief to Property

Applicable TSA infractions deemed appropriate through observable offences of information received

Outcomes:
Preferred:
Protest facilitated where demonstrators can publicly, peacefully and lawfully express their views, members of the public can enjoy lawful use of public and private property, commercial enterprise is able to go about their business unmolested, no injuries or damage to property, minor disruptions, no or minor criminal activity

Acceptable:
Protest facilitated with some disruption and disturbance of the peace, no or minor injuries, confidence maintained, business as usual maintained

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Unacceptable:
Protest not facilitated, serious injury or loss of life, significant disruption, significant criminal activity, loss of confidence in policing, business as usual significantly affected

IF A PROTEST OCCURS IN YOUR JURISDICTION YOUR FIRST POINT OF CONTACT IS KMOSS TO ASSIST IN MANAGING THE UNFOLDING INCIDENT (780) 412-5015, AS WELL AS NOTIFICATION TO YOUR RESPECTIVE DANCO.

The expectation is the Detachment of jurisdiction will manage the event at the outset, in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies if that is the case. An assessment should be made in the early stages on the ability to safely manage the event. Escalate any requests for additional resources or support to District Command. The Division Emergency Operations Centre (DEOC) will be included, first from a monitoring posture, and able to escalate support as required.

To see the communique in it's entirety, including the blockade/protest protocol see:

K Div Response to Protests and Blockade Protocol

NOTE: *Click on the above link and the document will automatically generate a GroupWise message. Do not modify the subject line. Click send. You will receive an auto-reply message with the document attached.*

John G. Ferguson, A/Commr.
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